

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 10, 2014

Agenda Item: 2014 – 2015 Bitterroot Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. For the 2014 and 2015 mountain lion season, structure changes included a transition to male subquotas in Region 1 and a revised definition of the fall/archery quota allocation. There was also a proposed adjustment to the Bitterroot lion season at the final adoption meeting in February (see below). To ensure the public saw these proposed changes, the Commission extended the public review and comment opportunity.

Elements of proposed adjustments to the 2014 – 2015 Bitterroot Mountain Lion Hunting Season include (no proposed change to initial adoption):

- combine lion hunting districts 204, 260, 261 (excluding Missoula Special Management Area), 240, 250 and 270 into a single special lion license area;
- hunters holding this license could hunt in all six districts;
- the number of special lion licenses offered in this district bundle will be equal to twice the combined quotas in the six districts;
- the six districts would retain individual quotas and subquotas and each district would be closed to harvest when quotas or subquotas are met; and
- the "hybrid" season would remain in place, and unchanged.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public comment ran through 5 p.m., Friday, March 21. Comments were forwarded to the Commission.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may or may not be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2013 (status quo). The Commission, however, must define a 2014-2015 season for the Bitterroot.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the adjustments listed above.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the final 2014 and 2015 Bitterroot Mountain Lion Hunting Season as presented by FWP.